

Book of Mormon Testimony vs. LDS Testimony

It seems to me (I may certainly be wrong, and my intent is to shed light and not to offend) that the word “Testimony” is used around “Mormondom” very freely: almost in a trance-like, cult-like state-of-mind. To my shame, I have been guilty of this malady in my past. I am trying to repent, and I am earnestly endeavoring to walk in the straight path that Alma so wonderfully articulated in the Book of Mormon.

Here is his testimony on this subject:

6) ... Yea, I trust that you do not worship idols, but that ye do worship the true and the living God, and that ye look forward for the remission of your sins with an everlasting faith which is to come.

7) For behold, I say unto you, There be many things to come; and behold, there is one thing which is of more importance than they all: For behold, the time is not far distant, that the Redeemer liveth and cometh among his people...

10) And behold, he shall be born of Mary at Jerusalem, which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed, and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God;...

11) And he shall go forth, suffering pains, and afflictions, and temptations of every kind;...

13) Now the Spirit knoweth all things; nevertheless the Son of God suffereth according to the flesh, that he might take upon him the sins of his people, that he might blot out their transgressions, according to the power of his deliverance; and now behold, this is the testimony which is in me....(Alma 7)

Of course there are a myriad of variations and exceptions, but here is an example of a typical LDS testimony:

I know the Book of Mormon is true. Therefore I know that God lives, and He appeared along with his son (two distinct and separate personages) to Joseph Smith in the sacred grove. Therefore I know this is the only true church and I know that Russel M. Nelson (or whoever it has been from Joseph Smith's death) is God's prophet, and we must follow him to be exalted.

Am I over simplifying and exaggerating; or does the difference seem glaringly clear that we have spoon-fed each other with contaminated food?